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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (16 Oct 69) FOR OT UT 693120

31 October 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 45th Surgical Hospital, Period Ending 31 July 1969

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 45TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL (MA)
APO 96216

AVBJ GD-SC

31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 45th Surgical Hospital (MA) For Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1)

THRU: Commanding General
44th Medical Brigade
ATTN: AVBJ PO
APO 96384

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

During this period of the report, the 45th Surgical Hospital accomplished its assigned mission of providing medical care for all classes of patients originating in the Combat Zone.

During the month of May, 511 patients were treated in the Pre-Operative Section; of those 217 were admitted. 122 major surgical procedures and 1 minor surgical procedure were performed. During the month of June, 713 patients were treated in the Pre-Operative Section, of those 254 were admitted. 165 major surgical procedures and 2 minor surgical procedures were performed. During the month of July, 461 patients were treated in the Pre-Operative Section, of those 101 were admitted. 89 major surgical procedures and 2 minor surgical procedures were performed. The vast majority of all patients admitted were those injured as a result of enemy action. Rocket attacks decreased slightly during this period. On 25 May 1969 at 1045 hours a 107 mm rocket impacted on the hospital helipad twenty feet from the entrance to the Pre-Operative section of the hospital. The Pre-Operative Bubble was partially deflated but there were no injuries to personnel. At 1550 hours on 6 June 1969 two (2) 107 mm rockets impacted in the hospital area, one hitting in the entrance way of the main EM Bunker causing slight damage to the sandbag wall but no personnel injuries. The second

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rocket impacted on the west side of an enlisted barracks causing shrapnel holes in the building but no personnel injuries. On 14 June 1969 at 1245 hours a 107 mm rocket with a delayed fuse impacted in the PA&E office located directly behind the hospital Mess Hall, killing the secretary, a Vietnamese National, and wounding a PA&E laborer. A secondary fire was brought under control immediately by hospital personnel. The building was completely destroyed and the Mess Hall had slight damage with shrapnel damage to the dishwashing area and a stack oven. No US personnel were injured.

An unusually large rotational hump was experienced in this facility during the report period. LTC James B. Smith, Commanding Officer departed for Fitzsimmons General Hospital and interim commander, MAJ Everett G. King, was appointed. MAJ Allan P. Kibbey, Anesthesiologist, was transferred to the 24th Evacuation Hospital, RVN, and was replaced by MAJ Augustus Lariosa. MAJ Clarence Rittelmeyer, Chief of Surgery, departed for separation and was replaced by MAJ Jose F. Morelos. Two General Medical Officers were reassigned to other units during this period: CPT Jay L. Sugerman was reassigned to the 9th Infantry Division, RVN, and CPT Robert D. Polishook was reassigned to the 54th Artillery Group, RVN. CPT Horton G. Taylor, D5150, was assigned during this period from the 1st Infantry Division and also departed during this period to begin his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center. CPT Howard Wilkov, Radiologist, was reassigned to the 3d Field Hospital, RVN, to be replaced by MAJ James Camarata. MAJ Luis Alagarra arrived to perform as a General Surgeon. Five nurses departed the hospital during this period: MAJ Monica B. Palmer, OR Supervisor; LT Dale L. Huffel, Staff Nurse; LT Edward Keene, Staff Nurse; LT Norma J. Webb, Head Nurse; and LT Arlene Frank, Staff Nurse. Replacements for these are MAJ George Nixon, OR Supervisor; LT Sae A. Lazar, Staff Nurse; LT Rhoda M. Buelke, Staff Nurse; LT Linda Copeland, Staff Nurse. CPT Daniel H. Partin III, Adjutant-Detachment Commander, departed for the 7th Medical Brigade, Germany, and was replaced by LT Barry A. Goldin, who transferred from the 3d Field Hospital. LT Goldin was a reservist and departed to be released from active duty with the first 25,000 man de-escalation of the war. CPT Bert A. Pedersen assumed the duties as Adjutant-Detachment Commander relinquishing his former duties as Supply Officer. CPT Robert Williamson, Registrar, departed for separation and was replaced by CPT Robert C. Fisk. LT Ronald S. Holzman, Medical Supply Officer, was reassigned to the 56th Medical Battalion, RVN and was replaced by LT Ted T. Nakagawa. CPT(Chaplain) Malachy Mahon transferred to the 67th Evacuation Hospital at Chu Lai and CPT(Chaplain) Francis Mara arrived from the 2d Surgical Hospital, RVN, to assume the duties of Hospital Chaplain.

Visitors during this period were: COL Murphy, and LTC Bloomer who

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discussed new innovations in MUST with the hospital staff on 5 May 1969. On 7 May 1969; LTC Michelson, S-3 44th Medical Brigade, visited the hospital to discuss the turn-in of MUST Equipment when the new hospital is built. On 12 June 1969, COL David E. Thomas, Commander of the 44th Medical Brigade, and COL M.D. Thomas, Commander of the 68th Medical Group, Visited the hospital for an orientation. LTC Rooke, Executive Officer 68th Medical Group, MAJ Murray, S-1 68th Medical Group, and their staff visited the hospital on 16 July 1969 for an orientation and tour of the area. On 28 July 1969, COL Lindsay, Deputy Commander 44th Medical Brigade, COL M.D. Thomas, Commanding Officer 68th Medical Group, visited the hospital for an orientation. COL Ledbetter, S-1 USARV Surgeons Office, visited the hospital for an orientation on 29 July 1969. On 30 July 1969, LTC Greene, MAJ Ebner, and MAJ Kennedy of the S-4 office, 44th Medical Brigade, visited the hospital to discuss problems with Supply, MUST materials, and progress on construction of the new hospital. Self-help projects in the hospital area progressed during the reporting period. The MUST Maintenance-Medical Maintenance Building was completed and a linen and storage hutment was built. Laterite was hauled by the hospital staff into the motor pool to alleviate the drainage problem. On 7 July 1969, the HQ-Supply Quonset Hut was moved to a new location by the Mess Hall by the 588th Engineers to make room for the new hospital. The quonset is now being sandbagged to provide needed protection. A new POL Storage area was built by self-help and a pad for a new EM hooch was poured by members of the hospital. A hutment for LT Susan Green, OR Nurse, and her husband CPT Green of the 25th Infantry Division was built by hospital personnel during this period.

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

- a. Personnel: None
- b. Operations: Use of Plastic Syringe Containers

(1) Observation: The operating room in the past has used ordinary glass tubes in which to rest the Bovie tip when using the Bovie during surgical procedures. These glass tubes often were broken when sterilized with other goods. This was a safety hazard and furthermore constant breakage brought about a critical shortage of glass tubes. These shortcomings prompted a search for a more suitable item to be used as a receptacle.

(2) Evaluation: After testing, it was determined that the plastic containers in which disposable 30 cc syringes were packaged held up under auto-claving. These are now being used instead of the glass containers. This makes good use of plastic containers which would

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31 July 1969

otherwise be discarded.

(3) Recommendation: Recommend that this item be used in the future.

c. Training: None

d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics: Use of Chinook Helicopter for Medical Supplies

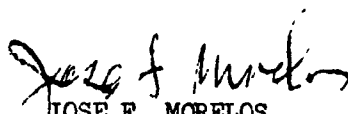
(1) Observation: The medical supplies for the 45th Surgical Hospital were picked up at the 1/32 Medical Depot, Long Binh, RVN, once each week. This entailed two men driving to Long Binh on one day, picking up the supplies on the second day and returning on the third day, a loss of six man days and the wear and tear on a 2½ ton truck over rough roads.

(2) Evaluation: It was determined that man hours and wear and tear on a truck could be saved if the supplies were airlifted by Chinook from Long Binh to Tay Ninh. It was discovered that the 1st Brigade of the 1st Air Cavalry Division flew empty Chinook air craft from Beer Cat, RVN, near Long Binh to Tay Ninh every morning of the week. They volunteered to pickup and deliver the medical supplies to this facility whenever we needed the material. Arrangements were made with the 1/32 Medical Depot to pack the medical supplies in a conex container, and with the 68th Medical Group to provide a vehicle to pick up the conex container and with the 45th Air Ambulance Company to use their helicopter pad to pick up the supplies. One man from this hospital flies to Long Binh the day prior to pick up, coordinates the mission and returns to Tay Ninh with the medical supplies the following morning. This saves many man hours and allows more efficient use of hospital supply personnel.

(3) Recommendation: Recommend this innovation be approved for continued use at this hospital and that other isolated hospitals investigate the possibilities of using this method of transporting supplies.

f. Organization: None

g. Other: None


JOSE F. MORELOS
MAJ, MC
Acting Commander

AVBJ CD-PO (31 Jul 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 45th Surgical Hospital (MA) for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 68TH MEDICAL GROUP, APO 96491

14 August 1969

TO: Commanding General, 44th Medical Brigade, ATTN: AVBJ PO, APO 96384

1. This report has been reviewed.

2. The following comments are submitted concerning Section 2:

a. Reference, paragraph 2b: this recommendation concerns technical professional matters and should be considered by appropriate consultants.

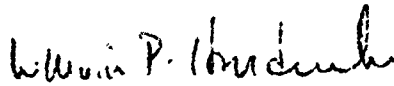
b. Reference, paragraph 2e: non-concur for following reasons.

(1) The situation as outlined is an informal arrangement and not a system for resupply, and is applicable only to subject unit under its existing circumstances.

(2) Reliance on such a resupply method is inadvisable as the transporting Chinooks are not under control of the subject unit and may not be available at crucial resupply times.

(3) Other outlying hospitals use convoy method, which insures continuity, reliability and accountability in their resupply system.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


WILLIAM P. HENDRICKS
CPT, MSC
Assistant Adjutant

AVBJ PO (31 Jul 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 45th Surgical Hospital (MA) for the
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, Headquarters, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96384 11 Sep 69

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

This headquarters has reviewed the subject report and the following comments
are submitted:

- a. Reference para 2b, basic report; recommend this item be reviewed by
the consultants to the USARV Surgeon since it deals with professional matters.
- b. Reference para 2e, basic report; concur.
- c. Reference para 2b(1), 1st Indorsement; non-concur. While this system
is informal, it is functional as a system for resupply and could be
applicable to other units under these circumstances.
- d. Reference para 2b(2), 1st Indorsement; non-concur. The 45th Surgical
Hospital is not relying on this system and is perfectly capable of using
organic transportation at any time.
- e. Reference para 2b(3), 1st Indorsement; concur in part. However, the
12th Evacuation Hospital does not use a convoy, but dispatches two or three
organic 2½ ton trucks to transport supplies.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Douglas Lindsey
DOUGLAS LINDSEY
COL, MC
Deputy Commander

Cy furns
CO, 68th Med Gp
CO, 45th Surg Hosp

AVHGC-DST (31 July 1969) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 45th Surgical Hospital (MA) for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 27

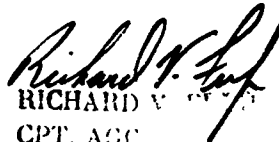
TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 45th Surgical Hospital (MA).

2. Reference item concerning, "Use of Plastic Syringe Containers," section II, page 3, paragraph 2b; concur. This information will be disseminated through the USARV Surgeon's Office, Chief Nurse Information Letter.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Cy furn:
45th Surg Hosp
44th Med Bde


RICHARD V. [unclear]
CPT, AGC
Assistant

GPOP-DT (31 Jul 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 45th Surgical Hospital (MA) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 2 OCT 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



D. A. TUCKER
CPT. AGC
ACST AG

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